

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/667,965

Examiner

Stephen M. Hepperle

Applicant(s)

VEINOTTE ET AL.

Art Unit

3753

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 6/28/04, 5/28/04  
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material  
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_  
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment  
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Pac Musacchio on 27 July 2005.


The application has been amended as follows: in claim 10, line 3, after "apparatus", -- performing leak detection on a headspace of the fuel system and—has been inserted.

The above amendment provides antecedent basis for the recitation of claim 11.

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner: Figs. 4 and 5 need to be replaced with ones with proper hatching of the elements shown, and without copy machine marks. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art shows a headspace relief valve with a switch (such as WO 01 38716), but no teaching to use only the effective area of a deforming annular seal to vent vacuum in a device as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

  
**STEPHEN M. HEPPERLE**  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 347